

FOCUSED DETERRENCE REENTRY

Year 1 Summary Report



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YEAR 1 SUMMARY REPORT
10/01/2021 – 09/30/2022

Focused deterrence, often referred to as “pulling levers, is a crime reduction strategy in which carefully selected high-risk, prolific, violent offenders receive concentrated enforcement attention and, simultaneously, offers of social services through direct, persuasive communication at a Call-In Forum. The goals of this collective work are to reduce violent crime by increasing the swiftness, severity and certainty of punishment for crimes, and increasing the swiftness and certainty of services support for those who chose the offer of help through rigorous follow through. Taking lessons learned from our previous 2017 – 2019 iteration, this comprehensive approach focuses its attention on violent offenders who pose the biggest threat to public safety.

The target population are individuals on parole or probation who are at high-risk of committing an act of gun-related violence or being the victim of a future act of gun-related violence. Selection criteria was developed using data analysis from Loyola University. Criteria was confirmed as high risk/high need individuals with a past or current gun offense charge. Risk assessment scores are utilized in the selection process. Individuals under 30 are prioritized over older individuals as the likelihood of committing a violent offense declines with age. Individuals with mental health needs that would interfere with their ability to take part in the intervention (ex: Schizophrenia) as well as those with prior sex offenses are dropped from consideration due to the nature of the intervention.

Focused Deterrence Call in Forums are held quarterly. At the Forum, individuals are advised they were identified as having a high potential to re-offend or become victims themselves. They are put on notice that enforcement was being handled differently – law enforcement partners are working in a coordinated fashion and any crimes committed would be dealt with in a swift and certain fashion. They are put on notice that the violence must stop and are offered a second chance with the help of a Navigator.

As of 09/30/2022, a total of four (4) Focused Deterrence Call-In Forums had been held. The following provides background information and highlights of year one activity from each of the three funded partners:

This latest implementation has something the previous did not – an Assistant State's Attorney assigned to address participants who chose to participate in illegal activity or disregard court orders. The dedicated ASA allows for a single prosecutor to follow participants to multiple courtrooms for program fidelity and swift and certain outcomes.

The State's Attorney's role in the focused deterrence program is to hold program participants accountable when they violate the terms of their probation or commit a new criminal offense. In holding participants accountable, the program requires swift action.

When a program participant violates the conditions of their probation, a “petition to revoke probation” may be filed by the SAO. If a judge determines the program participant has violated his or her probation, the judge may modify the terms of probation or sentence the participant to a term in the Illinois Department of Correction. Since the program's inception, the SAO has filed new charges or a petition to vacate probation on 11 participants - 8 of which were in the third quarter.

At the close of the third quarter 2022, the State's Attorney's Office (SAO) continues to streamline the focused deterrence program. With the help of adult probation and the judiciary, we've seen better response times and faster dispositions for focused deterrence participants.

All petitions to revoke probation are going to one point person in the State's Attorney's Office. That person will immediately prepare a petition to revoke and present it to a judge within 24 hours upon receiving notification from Adult Probation that a participant is falling behind their probation obligations. All petitions to revoke probation are prepared along with a warrant of arrest. No petitions are filed with the option of the focused deterrence participant appearing in court out of custody (commonly known as a 'notice to appear'). (*side note: It remains to be seen how the Pretrial Fairness Act will affect this process.)

The amount of the warrant remains at the discretion of the judiciary. It takes into account the level of violation, the risk to the community, whether the participant has committed a new offense, and/or the risk of further criminal activity with greater attention given to those at risk of violent offenses. In the third quarter, we've had arrest warrants in the amount of \$25,000 to \$100,000.

Once the participant has been arrested on the petition to revoke probation, they are seen by a judge in bond court. In the past, we struggled with bond court judges setting focused deterrence participant bonds low and their future court dates far out. This did not coincide with our mission to provide swift, certain, and fair justice in this program. Fortunately, we are now seeing faster court dates set in bond court. The attorney in the State's Attorney's Office knows who is a focused deterrence participant and informs the bond court judge so that a shorter date is set before the assigned judge.

Another point of significance is preparation on all petition to revoke probation files. It has been a goal for the State's Attorney's Office from the beginning to have offers ready to go on all focused deterrence 'petition' files by the first court date before the assigned judge. We've made great strides in this effort. Below is a sample timeline from the third quarter:

- Focused Deterrence participant from Q4 2021
 - 09/12/2022 – SAO received notification from Adult Probation of numerous probation violations (missed appointments, discharge from treatment, positive drops, etc.)
 - 09/12/2022 – SAO prepared petition to revoke and warrant and presented both to participant's sentencing judge who issued a warrant of arrest in the amount of \$100K.
 - 09/13/2022 – Participant was arrested on his warrant at the Adult Probation Office.
 - 09/14/2022 – Participant was present in bond court and was given a court date of 09/26/2022 before the sentencing judge
 - 09/26/2022 – SAO gave participant the offer to resolve and participant at that time admitted to the petition to revoke and the matter was set for sentencing in November. The judge had a lengthy talk with the participant, and his father who was present in court, of the severity of his current situation and his disappointment that the participant did not take full advantage of the focused deterrence programs available to him. He also made it clear that if by November the participant is not 100% in compliance, he will likely be given a term in the Department of Corrections. The participant seemed to understand his situation and expressed his desire to comply with the terms and conditions of his probation.

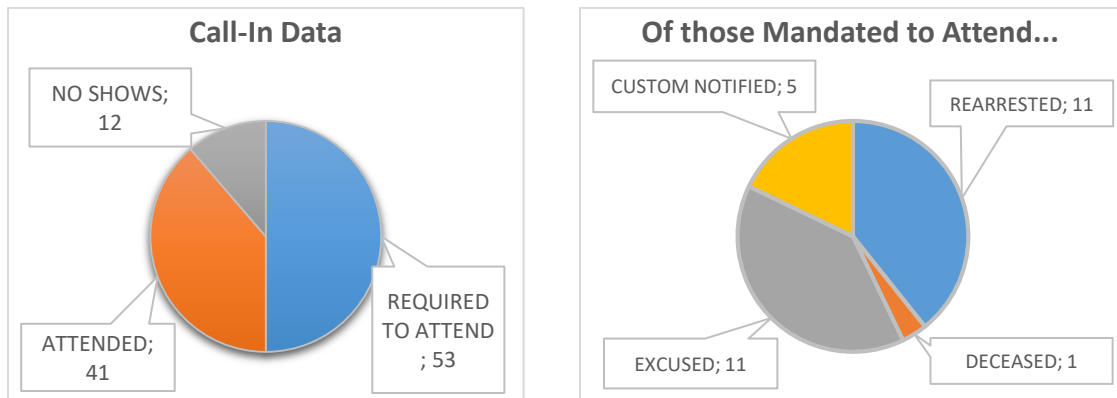
Looking forward, the SAO continues to make improvements in communication and procedure to further program goals. The SAO continues to make federal referrals a priority on those participants that commit new crimes. The United States Attorney’s Office takes special interest in those that commit new weapons offenses, especially weapons equipped with the auto sear switches. Having an attorney at the State’s Attorney’s Office appointed as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney has streamlined that process and greatly increased our referral success rate for federal prosecutions.

NAVIGATOR – SWIFT AND CERTAIN SERVICES / SOCIAL SUPPORTS

While the Call-in is mandatory, participation in Navigator services is not. However, for those who choose the offer of help, just as with sanctions, Focused Deterrence Reentry calls for swift, certain, and fair distribution of services. Because best practices indicate applying the too much or too little dosage can increase recidivism, our goal is that the Navigator is intentional to coordinate, manage, document, but not duplicate case management efforts.

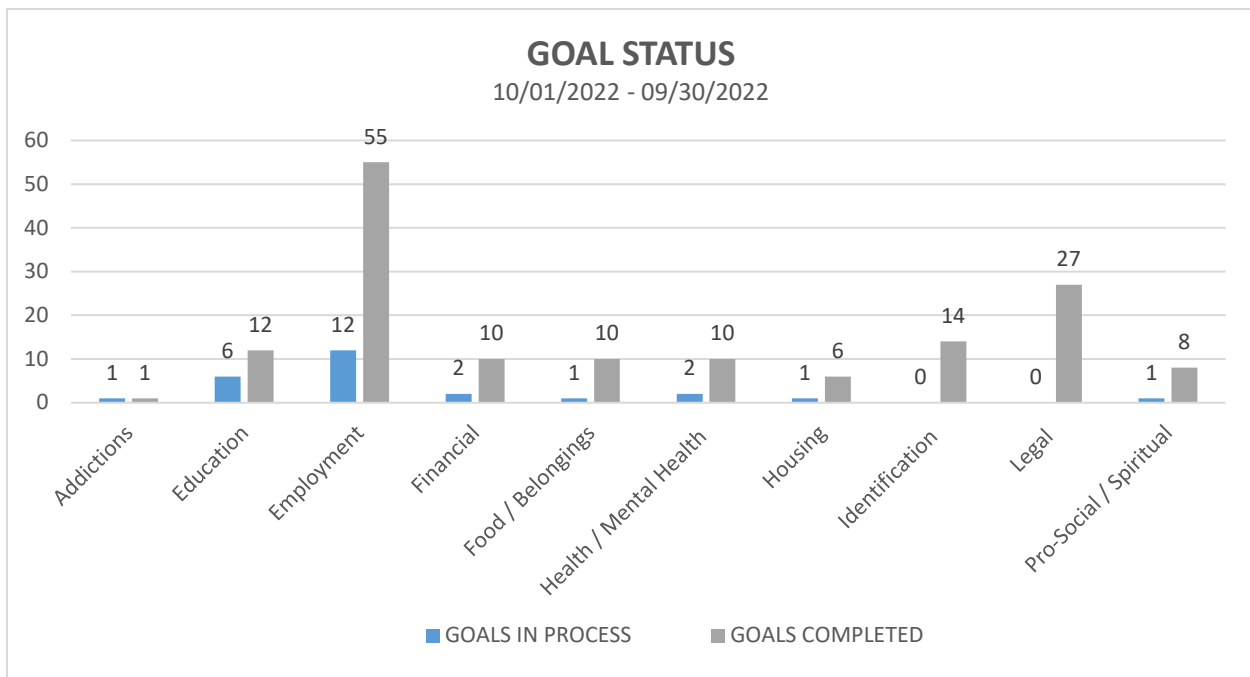
Case Plans consisting of information provided by the risk and needs assessment, parole, probation, relevant service providers, and the participant, are compiled and updated by the Navigator on a regular and timely basis. The Navigator triages needs, adds case notes, manages goals, referrals, and items provided and with the exception of confidential records, all case management records are recorded in the case management system.

In the first year, a total of fifty-three (53) individuals have been required to attend a Call in meeting and forty-one (41) were present. Of the twelve (12) no-shows, eleven (11) were excused, and five (5) of the excused were Custom Notified (home or other notification). Eleven (11) individuals have been re-arrested, and one (1) is deceased due to gun violence. As of 09/30/2022, the Navigator had a caseload of twenty-one (21) active participants.



As of 09/30/2022, eleven (11) active participants and seven (7) inactive participants were employed full-time. The Navigator explains some reentrants are fearful of factory work due to hearing of workplace injuries. She reports others as feeling used by staffing agencies who let them go just before the 90th day. The Navigator also reports a lack of training and as such, her focus is to ensure participants are employment-ready and assist those who wish to enroll in training programs.

In the first year, 38 participants completed a total of 153 goals and as of 09/31/2022, had 26 goals in process. The table below reflects the goals in process and completed by category:



RESEARCH PARTNER – PROCESS AND IMPACT EVALUATION

Loyola University Chicago’s Center for Criminal Justice Research, Policy and Practice provides support in the form of process and impact evaluation. Outcomes examined as part of the evaluation will include the swiftness, certainty, and fairness of responses to violations of supervision or new arrests, as well as rates of recidivism for all crimes, as well as crime of violence. Loyola will provide a written mid-project summary report with recommendations at, or prior to, 26 months and a final project evaluation at, or prior to, 50 months.

The research team attends monthly meetings to examine and document processes used and to determine if it is effective at achieving its goals and the impact on case outcomes and subsequent violence. Throughout year one, the research team continued to collect, clean, and analyze data for the

Winnebago County Focused Deterrence program evaluation. In July, the research team obtained administrative data for the 3rd group of call-in participants and updated data for all participants. Throughout year one, the research team continued to clean and restructure the participant data to allow for tracking participant progress in the program and the development of a comparison group. The research team has also continued to clean, structure, and analyze the interview data from stakeholders.

Throughout year two, the research team will continue to clean, code and analyze the stakeholder interview data and continue to clean and structure the quarterly program participant data. The research team will continue to recruit program participants for interviews. Additionally, to address the difficulties the research teams is having recruiting for interviews with program participants (more information below), the research team will revise the IRB protocol to allow the research team to contact program participants and directly request an interview. Finally, the research team will continue to attend Operations Meetings and Call-Ins to document program fidelity.